

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 207907
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /034 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AN:TJROESCH/PAH
APPROVED BY EB/OA;MHSTYLES
EA/J:MMEYERS
CAB:JHORNEMAN (INFO)
EB/AN:RABROWN
-----116471 171358Z /44
R 162043Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NW SCHEDULE

REF: (A) TOKYO 13976 (B) TOKYO 11594

1. IN SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION (REF A)
DEPARTMENT REQUESTS EMBASSY PRESENT GOJ NOTE WHICH REPLIES
DIRECTLY TO GOJ'S PAPER OF JUNE 5 (CONTAINED REF B) AS
WELL AS TO JULY 18 WATANABE LETTER TO PIEZ.

2. SUGGESTED NOTE TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE...AND REFERS TO THE
PAPER DATED JUNE 5, 1978, IN WHICH THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT AMPLIFIED ITS POSITION ON NORTHWEST AIRLINES'
JUNE 8 SCHEDULE AND TO THE LETTER OF MR. KOJI WATANABE,
DIRECTOR, FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION AMERICAN AFFAIRS
BUREAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DATED JULY 18, 1978
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ADDRESSED TO MR. WILLIAM PIEZ OF THE EMBASSY.

THE JUNE 5 PAPER STATES THAT THE QUOTE JAPANESE SIDE
REGRETS US SIDE HAS NOT YET TAKEN ANY NECESSARY AND
APPROPRIATE MEASURE TO PREVENT THE ABUSE OF FIFTH FREEDOM
TRAFFIC RIGHTS ALTHOUGH THIS QUESTION WAS REFERRED TO IN
THE AGREED MINUTES DATED JULY 12, 1977 WHICH STIPULATE;

THAT THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE

PROBLEM OF IMMEDIATE ISSUES. UNQUOTE.

THE EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT THE ONLY REFERENCE IN THE AGREED MINUTES OF JULY 12, 1977 TO FIFTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC RIGHTS IS FOUND IN PARAGRAPH NUMBER 5 WHERE QUOTE IT WAS AGREED THAT THESE ISSUES, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF OVERNIGHT STAY, SHOULD BE RESOLVED DURING THE REVISION TALKS UNQUOTE. THE US GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO COMPLY WITH THIS AGREEMENT DURING THE FORTHCOMING ROUND OF THE REVISION TALKS. AT THAT TIME, IT WOULD ALSO COMMENT ON THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT LOCAL TRAFFIC ON CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF NORTHWEST'S OPERATION BEYOND TOKYO SHOULD NOT EXCEED FIFTY PERCENT. THE US GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THIS TOPIC HAS NOT BEEN AS THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AS IT SHOULD BE.

THE JUNE 5 PAPER ALSO MAINTAINS NORTHWEST'S OVERNIGHT STAYS ARE UNNECESSARY AND COULD BE ELIMINATED BY RESCHEDULING THE DEPARTURE TIMES OF THOSE FLIGHTS FROM THE UNITED STATES A FEW HOURS EARLIER. AFTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION THE US GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS OF THE DEPARTURE TIMES WOULD CAUSE NORTHWEST SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AND HARDSHIP IN RESCHEDULING ITS OVERALL OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT ITS NETWORK. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECAUSE OF THIS OPERATIONAL PRESSURE TO INCLUDE THE OVERNIGHT STAY AT TOKYO IN NORTHWEST'S SCHEDULE PLUS THE ABSENCE OF ANY PROHIBITION AGAINST SUCH OPERATIONS IN THE BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT AND NORTHWEST'S TRADITIONAL USE OF THE OVERNIGHT STAY TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFICULTIES IN SCHEDULING, THE US GOVERNMENT CONCLUDES THAT ELIMINATION OF THE OVERNIGHT STAY IS NOT WARRANTED.

GIVEN THE US GOVERNMENT'S READINESS TO DISCUSS THE FIFTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC ISSUE IN THE REVISION TALKS AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY PROVISION IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT PROHIBITING OVERNIGHT STAYS, THIS GOVERNMENT SEES NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO LIMIT NORTHWEST'S PERMIT TO OCTOBER 1, 1978 NOR DOES IT RECOGNIZE ANY NEED TO INCLUDE IN THE PERMIT A REQUIREMENT THAT THE AIRLINE SUBMIT BY AUGUST 31 CHANGES IN ITS SCHEDULE. THE US GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THAT NORTHWEST'S SCHEDULE BE APPROVED IN THE REGULAR WAY, I.E., INDEFINITELY OR UNTIL NORTHWEST FILES A NEW SCHEDULE, AND THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE FIFTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC ISSUE BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE RESUMPTION OF THE REVISION TALKS. UNQUOTE.

3. IN REGARD TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY
NORTHWEST IN ELIMINATING OVERNIGHT STAY, EMBASSY SHOULD
ENCOURAGE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES TO APPROACH NORTHWEST
DIRECTLY FOR DETAILS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE207907
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TJROESCH/PAH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780336-0601
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780857/aaaabvsh.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 52eb8662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 13976, 78 TOKYO 11594
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1719097
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: NW SCHEDULE
TAGS: EAIR, JA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52eb8662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014